

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10  
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NSF-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06  
PRS-01 SP-02 DLOS-06 SAL-01 EB-08 EPA-01 OIC-02 /115 W  
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P 081711Z MAR 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1367

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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: XV, TGEN, UK  
SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY: NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING:  
GROUP OF EXPERTS TERMS OF REFERENCE

REF: LONDON 3717

1. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED COPY OF HEAP'S LETTER OF MARCH 4 TO SCAR PRESIDENT GJELSVIK. IN IT HEAP STATES HE IS RECONSIDERING THE "DETAILED OUTLINE" FOR THE EXPERTS DISCUSSION AT THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE. IN ORDER TO FOCUS HIS THINKING MORE CLEARLY, HE HAS LISTED IN WHAT HE CALLS ANNEX A TO HIS LETTER SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT ANTARCTIC MINERAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT MIGHT JUSTIFY FURTHER STUDY. IN DOING SO HE HAS EXCLUDED QUESTIONS THAT ARE DIRECTLY POLITICAL OR THAT OVERLAP WITH EAMREA'S TERMS OF REFERENCE. HE HAS PREFACED THE ANNEX BY PARAPHRASING THESE TERMS OF REFERENCE IN ORDER TO MAKE IT CLEAR WHAT EAMREA IS NOT REPEAT NOT ATTEMPTING.

2. BEGIN TEXT ANNEX A:

(1) A PARAPHRASE OF EAMREA'S TERMS OF REFERENCE.  
(1.1) TO ASSESS THE BIOLOGICAL IMPACT OF ONSHORE AND  
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OFF-SHORE ANTARCTIC MINERAL DEVELOPMENT AND ITS POSSIBLE IMPACT OUTSIDE THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AREA.  
(1.2) TO DEVELOP BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS THAT MAY ARISE IN THE COURSE OF THE ABOVE ASSESSMENT AND TO DEVELOP ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAMS.  
(1.3) TO ASSESS, ON THE BASIS OF GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSI-

CAL EVIDENCE' THE MOST PROSPECTIVE AREAS.

(1.4) TO DEVELOP GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS TO REFINED THE ABOVE MINERAL ASSESSMENT.

(1.5) TO DEVELOP THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR THE FORMULATION OF APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES.

(2) QUESTIONS ARISING FROM XIV-SCAR-30.

(2.1) HOW LONG DOES EAMREA HAVE TO COMPLETE ITS WORK?

(2.2) HOW WILL THE WORK OF EAMREA ITSELF BE FUNDED?

(2.3) HOW WILL RESEARCH PROGRAMS PROPOSED BY EAMREA BE FUNDED IN A MANNER WHICH DOES NOT PREJUDICE SCIENTIFIC EFFORT IN OTHER FIELDS?

(3) QUESTIONS RELATING TO TIMESCALE DERIVED FROM 2.1 ABOVE.

(3.1) IS IT POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE WHEN THE EXPLOITATION OF ANTARCTIC MINERALS WILL BECOME ECONOMICALLY VIABLE?

(3.2) IS IT TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE TO EXTRACT FROM THE ANTARCTIC:

(3.2.1) ONSHORE HARD ROCK MINERALS;

(3.2.2) OFFSHORE HYDROCARBONS?

(3.3) IS IT TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE TO TRANSPORT SUCH HARD ROCK MINERALS AND HYDROCARBONS, ONCE EXTRACTED?

(3.4) IF TECHNOLOGY HAS NOT YET BEEN DEVELOPED TO COPE WITH EXTRACTION AND/OR TRANSPORT IN THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT, WILL IT BE DEVELOPED ELSEWHERE (E.G. IN THE ARCTIC) OR ARE THERE UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY FOR USE IN THE ANTARCTIC ALONE?  
END OF TEXT ANNEX A.

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3. HEAP ALSO ASKS GJELSVIK WHETHER IN LIGHT OF XIV-SCAR-30 HE THINKS IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO INTRODUCE QUESTIONS 2.1-2.3 AT THE MARCH MEETING. HEAP GOES ON TO NOTE THAT CONSIDERABLE SKILL WILL BE NEEDED TO AVOID THE DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS 3.1-3.4 BEING USED BY SOME EXPERTS "TO EXPOUND AND SUPPORT PARTICULAR POLITICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE MINERAL PROBLEM." WITH THIS IN MIND, HE IS "TRYING HIS HAND AT A DETAILED OUTLINE" FOR THE EXPERTS MEETING IN A FORM WHICH COULD PROVIDE A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MARCH MEETING. HE RECOGNIZES THAT IT DEPARTS CONSIDERABLY FROM WRITTEN RECORD OF PARIS MEETING BUT ADDS THAT HE THINKS IT IS FAIRLY CLOSE TO THE PROPOSAL ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED BY FINN SOLLIE. HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IT WITH GJELSVIK AND OTHERS BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO TABLE IT.

4. BEGIN TEXT ANNEX B - DETAILED OUTLINE FOR EXPERTS MEETING:  
ANTARCTIC MINERALS

A DRAFT "DETAILED OUTLINE" FOR THE MEETING OF EXPERTS AT  
THE IXTH ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING.

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(1) IN ORDER TO AVOID DUPLICATING THE WORK OF EAMREA (THE SCAR GROUP OF SPECIALISTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT STUDYING POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ANTARTIC MINERALS), IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE MEETING OF EXPERTS AT THE IXTH ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING MIGHT DEFINE WHAT TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WOULD NEED TO BE FILLED BEFORE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANTARCTIC MINERAL RESOURCES COULD BEGIN.

(2) THE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD PROCEED ON THE BASIS THAT THE NECESSARY INVESTMENT DECISION PRIOR TO INDUSTRIAL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION WOULD BE BASED SOLELY ON TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS. THE EXPERTS WOULD NOT BE CONCERNED WITH THE ACCEPTABILITY OR OTHERWISE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ANTARCTIC MINERAL EXPLOITATION OR WITH THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO PROVIDE LONG TERM STABILITY FOR SUCH INVESTMENT PROGRAMS. TERMS OF REFERENCE.

(1) IN THE LIGHT OF EXISTING TECHNOLOGY, TO PROVIDE A VIEW ON WHETHER HARD-ROCK MINERALS COULD BE EXTRACTED FROM (A) COASTAL SITES AND (B) INLAND SITES AND ON WHETHER IT IS FEASIBLE TO TRANSPORT SUCH MINERALS TO  
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MARKETS OUTSIDE THE ANTARCTIC.

(2) TO DESCRIBE IN OUTLINE THE PROBABLE METHODS BY WHICH

(A) A HIGH VALUE TO MASS MINERAL AND (B) A LOW VALUE TO MASS MINERAL MIGHT BE EXTRACTED AND TRANSPORTED. THE DESCRIPTION SHOULD NOTE WHICH EFFECTS ON THE ANTARCTIC LANDSCAPE WOULD BE PERMANENT AND WHICH WOULD BE TRANSITORY.

(3) IN THE LIGHT OF EXISTING TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE A VIEW ON WHETHER HYDROCARBONS COULD BE EXTRACTED FROM THE CONTINENTAL SHELVES OF THE ANTARCTIC AND ON WHETHER IT IS FEASIBLE TO TRANSPORT THEM TO MARKETS OUTSIDE THE ANTARCTIC.

(4) TO DESCRIBE IN OUTLINE, THE PROBABLE METHODS BY WHICH HYDROCARBONS MIGHT BE EXTRACTED AND TRANSPORTED. THE DESCRIPTION SHOULD NOTE WHETHER THE METHODS PROPOSED ARE THEORETICAL OR ARE BASED ON CURRENTLY AVAILABLE OFFSHORE OIL FIELD PRACTICE.

(5) IN CASES WHERE THE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY HAS NOT YET BEEN DEVELOPED, TO PROVIDE A VIEW ON WHETHER IT IS LIKELY TO BE DEVELOPED ELSEWHERE (E.G. IN THE ARCTIC) AND ON WHETHER THERE ARE UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY TO MEET ANTARCTIC REQUIREMENTS ALONE.

(6) ON THE BASIS OF THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED ON 1-5 ABOVE, TO PROVIDE A VIEW OF THE ECONOMIC AND/OR MARKET CONDITIONS WHICH MANAGEMENT WOULD EXPECT TO EXIST BEFORE THE EXPLOITATION OF (A) HARD ROCK MINERALS AND (B) HYDROCARBONS BECOME COMMERCIALY ATTRACTIVE IN THE ANTARCTIC.  
END .T ANNEX B.

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## Message Attributes

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